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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Vladimir Putin of
Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Notetakers: Jane Lee, Jared Thomas, and Tess
Moore

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

DATE, TIME June 15, 2005, 7:49 - 8:04 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir, how are you today? (U)

President Putin: Fine. How are you, George? (U)

The President: Your English is very good and getting better.
(U)

President Putin: Thank you for the opportunity to talk.
Once again, I want to recall your visit to Moscow on the 60th
anniversary of our victory and thank you for the visit to Moscow.
Our contacts have continued at all levels, including the top
levels. Ivanov is in Washington conducting his talks with
Mr. Hadley. A couple of your Secretaries have visited Moscow.
And Mr. Rumsfeld has recently met his counterpart in Brussels.
So what I would like to discuss with you is an item pertaining to
the draft resolution which might be put to a vote in the General
Assembly with regard to the future of the organization.
Yesterday I had a talk with the Japanese Prime Minister.
He visited me yesterday in St. Petersburg and told me the
Japanese are quite concerned about this vote. Today, I will be
called by President Chirac. A couple of days ago Schroeder
called me on the same issue, and the day before yesterday I had a
talk with Mr. Blair. Though I should tell you Russia will accept
any scenario for enlargement in case maximum support is provided

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by the organization, what we want to underscore is that the Security Council should be compact and secure and viable. I would like to hear your views on that. Though I believe that, when discussing such an important problem, we should talk about the viability and ability to work of the Security Council and the organization in general, I would like to hear your views on this matter. (S)

The President: First of all, thank you for calling. It is important to talk about issues like this where we have a common interest. Before I give you my opinion, probably within the next 3 weeks, a little special gift from me will be arriving in Moscow. I'll make sure the White House notifies the Kremlin when we put it in the mail because I want to make sure you get it. I'm not going to tell you what it is, but it came from Texas. On the United Nations Security Council reform, like you, we are getting a lot of pressure. There are a lot of cross currents. Each country has an opinion, and there is no consensus. And that troubles me because the UN Security Council reform should not be a major international political battle. And like you, I would very much appreciate the principles you enunciated about a viable UN Security Council. And it seems like to me the best course of action is to adhere to important principles about what the UN Security Council should look like and how it should act before we take a specific position on the composition of the Security Council. In other words, rather than rush to a vote that will fail, we should set up the principles first before picking individual countries. My predecessor and I have both said Japan, paying the bills, should have a seat, but other than that I have been very guarded about the U.S. position. Our position right now is that the UN should focus on broader reform, articulate principles on UN Security Council reform, but not force a vote now or in September because there is no easy, simple, or logical way forward yet without creating a major political battle. Between you and me, the way we stand right now, let's debate the principle in September and give more time for the world to digest the complications of UN Security Council reform. (S)

President Putin: I believe that is a balanced and truly professional way to approach the problem. Even today, when we only have five members with a veto right, we don't agree on each and every issue, because later when they turn into 11 and further into 25, I'm afraid everything might cease to exist. And why, for instance, should we be forgetting about Italy or Pakistan? I can understand their position as well. In our view, Japan, India, and Germany in their future influence could be permanent members. But I truly share your approach that we have to understand the principles and only then continue. Based on this approach, I will formulate my instructions to the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, and I believe the ministers should keep in touch with their channels as well. (S)

The President: I want to thank you for the call. It's the right approach to deal with these issues. I wish I would have thought of it. (S)

President Putin: Hugs to you and best regards to your spouse and your children. Your father recently visited Moscow, and we enjoyed some tea together, and I wanted to convey something on the Olympics to you. (S)

The President: Please. (U)

President Putin: I said that if New York fails as a candidate, we ask you to extend your support to Moscow. And we would be prepared to extend our support to New York if Moscow fails to pass through the procedure. (S)

The President: I'll pass that on to my friend on the Olympic Committee. (S)

President Putin: Thank you very much, and very best to you. (U)

The President: Listen, two things. Thank you for receiving my dad. I know you changed your schedule to receive him, and that was most gracious of you. And finally, before we hang up, there was a fantastic picture of you and Tony walking at your beautiful house, and behind you was your dog, and Barney was somewhat jealous. Thank you, my friend. Good talking to you. (U)

President Putin: Hugs once again, and all the best to you. (U)

The President: All right, thank you. (U)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --